



TESTIMONY
of the
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
to the
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 24, 2009

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on the following bill of interest to towns and cities:

S.B. 348, "An Act Concerning the Videotaping of Interrogations"

S.B. 348 would mandate that law enforcement agency interrogations for capital felony A or B crimes be inadmissible in court, unless such interrogations are recorded electronically.

S.B. 348 presents a host of public policy implications that need and warrant exploration: whether it is in the public's interest that police interrogation techniques be studied by defense attorneys and criminals – allowing defense attorneys to focus on *interrogation techniques* rather than the guilt or innocence of the suspect; and whether and what standards and procedures are to be mandated (what kinds of recording devices are acceptable, what kinds of storage facilities are acceptable, etc.).

The Committee must ensure that the bill is not written in a way as to undermine the criminal investigative process.

CCM is not sure of the fiscal impact that S.B. 348 would have on towns and cities. We, therefore, urge the Committee to obtain a fiscal note on this bill.

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If you have any questions, please call Ron Thomas or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM at (203) 498-3000.